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Remarks prepared for delivery by
The Honorable Harold Brown
Secretary of Defense
At Farewell Banquet,
In Great Hall of the People
Beijing, China
Wednesday, January 9, 1980

Vice Premier XU, Vice Premier Geng, and Chinese and American Friends.

My few days in Beijing have demonstrated beyond any doubt both the present benefits and future potential of the relationship that began fifty-three weeks ago. The wide ranging and candid discussions we have held revealed that our strategic views—and even more important, our strategic interests—converge in many instances. Our talks will also help to ensure that our parallel actions will be mutually reinforcing. The candor of our talks enabled us to identify quickly the areas where our views do not coincide, and to narrow the differences. In a real sense the fact of the visit is its own central feature, quite aside from any details of the discussions or agreed next steps. I hope our global strategic relationship will broaden and deepen, and the first step on such a journey is always the most important one.

Aside from the fact of the visit, its detailed substance has been significant. I came to China to discuss the global military balance, regional security issues, arms controls, and bilateral relations. I found that we share a similar assessment of the global strategic situation. We both believe that in an era of turmoil a strong NATO Alliance and a stable Northwest Asia are essential to the security of the United States and China. We have a common reaction to many situations and events. We both recognize the danger that the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan poses to Pakistan and Iran; and indeed to the entire region and the world. Similarly, the Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea, backed by the Soviet Union, violates accepted norms of international behavior, causes untold suffering to the Kampuchean people, and risks wider conflicts. In these, as in other instances around the world, the task before us is to ensure that our converging assessments are translated into effective response.

We initiate for the first time sustained high level discussions on arms control. China's plan to join the committee on disarmament in Geneva is an important step.

We made plans to broaden contacts and exchanges between our two defense establishments. I am delighted that the Chinese have accepted an invitation to reciprocate my own visit. In addition, a delegation from the Military Academy of the People's Liberation Army will visit the United States in the near future, and further exchanges will be announced in due course. We clarified our respective positions on technology transfer, and prepared the ground for future expansion in this area.

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I leave Beijing convinced that our relationship will prosper. We have talked as equals, mindful that our ralationship is also a two-way street with obligations on both sides. No country, no matter how populous or how wealthy, no matter how dedicated or how strong, can do without friends. Our growing friendship has strengthened us both and threatens no one. As our relations develop, our separate actions will increasingly support our mutual objectives. With patience and determination let us proceed to add substance to our relationship.

I would like to propose a toast to the health of Premier Hua, to the health of Vice Premier Deng, to the health of Vice Premier XU, to the health of Vice Premier Geng, to the health of all our Chinese friends assembled here tonight and to the enduring and mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and China. To a strong, peaceful prosperous China; to a strong, peaceful prosperous United States. Gan Bei!

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